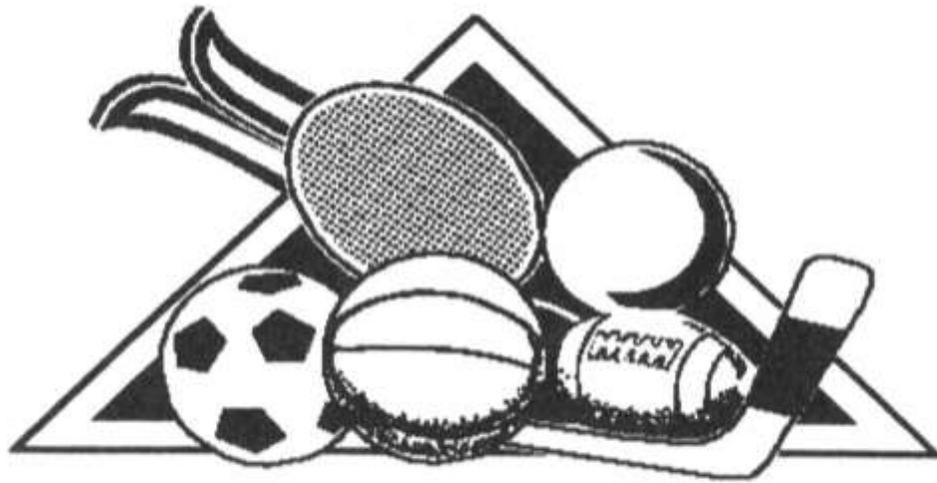
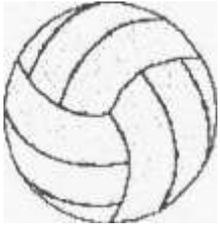


Seneca High School

Guidelines for the Student Athlete

Seneca High School Athletic Program





Fall Sports Season



Cross Country

Football

Golf

Boys Soccer

Girls Soccer

Volleyball

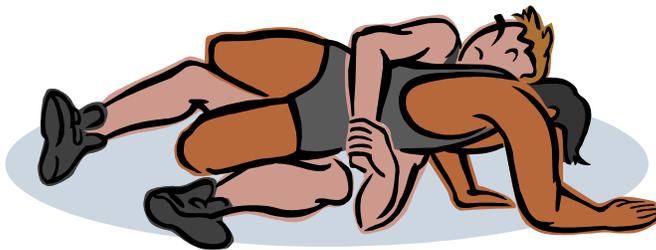


Winter Sports Season

Boys Basketball

Girls Basketball

Wrestling



Spring Sports Season

Baseball

Softball

Girls Track & Field

Boys Track & Field



PHILOSOPHY

High school sports exist to educate students. It is hoped that athletics in the Wattsburg Area School District will teach young people that life is more than wins and losses. It is hoped that athletics will develop character and the lifelong values of ethics, integrity and respect. The athletic program brings many positive effects to a school including the integration of various school groups: cheerleading, managers, statisticians, yearbook, newspaper staff, and band members. The program is open to all students regardless of individual differences. The athletes are expected to give their time and energy to the program and be loyal supporters. All rules and regulations associated with the program must be adhered to by coaches and athletes. Athletes are a role model to their school and must be willing to make sacrifices to represent their school.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Student-Athletes and Coaches in the Wattsburg Area School District must be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and act in a responsible manner at all times. The following guidelines should be adhered to by:

Student Athletes

1. Treat opponents with respect; shake hands prior to and after contests.
2. Respect judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the contest and display no behavior that could incite fans.
3. Cooperate with officials, coaches and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest.
4. Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing school and community; display positive public action at all times.
5. Live up to the high standard of sportsmanship established by the coach.

Other Fans

1. Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
2. Respect decisions made by contest officials.
3. Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
4. Respect fans, coaches and participants.
5. BE A FAN.... NOT A FANATIC!

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Academic eligibility for athletic activities is based on the premise that academic performance is the keystone of the curriculum and the standard against which participation is measured.

1. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must pursue a minimum four-year approved curriculum as outlined by the high school principal.
2. Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period and shall be reported on a weekly basis.
3. A student must be passing a minimum of three (3) full block credits or the equivalent in order to participate in the Athletic Program.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

1. The Athletic Department will provide staff members with a list of all students involved in the interscholastic athletic program for each season.
2. Staff members are to report (D-F) grades to the Athletic Office by the close of the school day each Thursday. The grades should be cumulative from the beginning of the marking period and conclude at the end of the marking period.
3. The Athletic Secretary will compile athletic eligibility reports which will be distributed to the coaching staff by the Athletic Director.
4. In the event that a student has failed to pass two or more classes, he/she is ineligible to participate in contests or practice for a period of one week. The weekly ineligibility begins and ends on Sunday of each week.
5. In accordance with PIAA by-laws, any student who is **not passing at least three (3) or more courses in an intensified block schedule** at the end of a grading period will be ineligible for the first fifteen (15) days of the next grading period.
6. These academic eligibility requirements are applicable to all students participating in the athletic program in grades 7-12 at Seneca High School and Wattsburg Middle School.

PIAA RULES

A student who participates in interscholastic athletics at a school which is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (PIAA) must adhere to the PIAA eligibility rules for student athletes. If you fail to comply with the PIAA rules, you will lose your eligibility to represent your school in interscholastic athletics. If you participate while ineligible, your school or team will be penalized. It is therefore important for you to be aware of the requirements to which you are subject.

The information contained here highlights and summarizes the major eligibility requirements you must meet in order to participate in interscholastic athletics. It does not list every rule or every detail. Unless otherwise indicated, each requirement applies to grades 7 through 12.

The principal of your school is responsible for certifying the eligibility of all students representing your school in interscholastic athletics. If you have any questions concerning your athletic eligibility either present or future, you should see your school principal who has available a complete copy of all the PIAA eligibility rules. Your principal may also obtain from the appropriate PIAA District Committee a formal ruling as to your athletic eligibility.

AGE

You may not have reached your 19th birthday by June 30 immediately preceding the school year. (15th birthday where interscholastic competition limited to grades 7 and 8; 16th birthday where limited to grades 7 through 9).

AMATEUR STATUS AND AWARDS

To be eligible to participate in a sport, you must be an amateur in the sport. You will lose your amateur status in a sport for at least a year if:

1. You, or your school, or an organization which you represent, or your parent or guardian, receives money or property for or related to your athletic ability, performance, participation, or services.
2. You accept compensation for teaching, training or coaching in a sport. You may receive normal and customary compensation for acting as an instructor in or officiating recreational activities, or for serving as a lifeguard at swimming areas.

You may receive awards only from your school, the sponsor of an athletic event, the news media, or a non-profit service organization approved by your school principal. Permissible awards are a sweater, jacket, blazer, blanket, shirt, shorts, jersey, cap, watch, ring, scroll, photograph, medal, plaque or similar trophy, which must bear appropriate organizational insignia or comparable identification.

ATTENDANCE

1. You must be regularly enrolled in your school and in full-time attendance there.
2. You are eligible only at the school at which you are enrolled.
3. If you are absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days, you will lose your eligibility until you have been in attendance for a total of 60 school days following your 20th day of absence.

CONSENT OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

You are eligible only if there is on file with the principal of your school, before you begin practice, an official PIAA certificate signed by your parent or guardian consenting to your participation in the particular sport involved.

PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION

You are eligible only if you have participated in a pre-participation physical evaluation performed by a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine, a certified registered nurse practitioner, a school nurse practitioner, or a certified physician assistant before your first sports season's first practice day of that school year. Before each subsequent sports season's first practice day of that same school year, you must be reevaluated or certified that your condition is satisfactory before you commence to practice for the sport.

Wrestlers must still have a physical but the certification of a weight class will be done in the following manner:

1. The lowest allowable weight class will be determined by a hydration and body composition analysis with a minimum 7% criterion for males and 12% for females. This certification will be performed by the Certified Athletic Trainer for the School District. Wrestlers will not be able to compete until the dehydration test is passed. An athlete must wait 24 hours if they fail the dehydration test in order to retest.
2. The data will be input into a computer program which will tell how much weight the wrestler will be able to lose by certain dates. Nutritional guidelines will be supplied for each wrestler to enable them to maintain a safe weight loss.

In all cases, the medical professional must have signed the PIAA Physicians Certificate.

TRANSFERS

You are treated as having transferred whenever you change schools, even if you are out of school for a period of time before entering the new school.

Except as provided below, if you transfer from one school district to another you are eligible immediately at your new school:

1. When you live with your natural or adoptive parents in the new school district.
2. When you live with a court-appointed legal guardian in the new school district, upon approval by the PIAA District Committee.

If you transfer between schools, you will be eligible immediately as to fall sports, provided the transfer is made between the completion of the previous school year at your school and the first day of practice for fall sports at your next school, and, as to winter and spring sports, the transfer is made between completion of the previous school year at your school and the beginning of the next school year at your next school.

If you transfer from one school to another in whole or in part for any athletic purpose, or if you are recruited, you will lose your athletic eligibility in all sports for one year. This requirement applies even if you would otherwise be eligible at the school to which you transferred.

Most students who are not eligible immediately, will be ineligible for one year from the date of transfer in each sport in which they participated within one year preceding the date of transfer.

PRACTICE WHEN SCHOOL IS CLOSED DUE TO WEATHER

District policy prohibits practices on days when school is closed or dismissed early due to inclement weather. The position of the Board of Education is that, if it is hazardous enough to dismiss school, all personnel and students should remain home. No exception is to be made to this policy.

DISQUALIFICATION FROM NEXT CONTEST

Any coach and/or contestant ejected from a Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official in that sport for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating for the remainder of the day and in the next Contest on the next play day at the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise).

Any coach and/or contestant ejected from the last Contest in that sport in a sport season shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating in the first Contest in that sport in the subsequent sport season, at any level of competition at any school.

The official shall file a report with the PIAA Office on the form prescribed for the sport involved, within twenty-four (24) hours following the competition of the Contest in which the ejection occurred. Failure to file such report shall not affect the validity or consequences of the ejection.

HOW ABSENCE AFFECTS ELIGIBILITY

A student who has been absent from school during a semester for a total of twenty (20) or more school days, shall not be eligible to participate in an Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, or Contest until the student has been in attendance for a total of forty-five (45) school days following the student's twentieth (20th) day of absence, except that where there is an excused absence due to a requirement that the student serve as the primary caregiver to a member of the student's immediate family or a near relative or death in that student's immediate family or of a near relative, both as defined in Section 1154 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, court subpoena, quarantine, or to attend a religious activity/function which the church requires its members to attend, or an excused absence of five (5) or more school days due to the same confining illness or injury, such excused absence may be waived from the application of this rule by the District Committee.

PERIOD OF ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION AND GRADE REPETITION

1. You will lose your eligibility when you have reached the end of your fourth consecutive year beyond the eighth grade. If you repeat a grade after eight, you will be ineligible as a senior.
2. You may participate a maximum of six seasons in each sport during grades seven through twelve, a maximum of four seasons in each sport during grades nine through twelve, and a maximum of three seasons in each sport during grades seven through nine.
3. You may participate in only one season in each sport during each school year.

OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION

You will lose your eligibility in a sport for the remainder of the season if, while a member of your high school team, you participate in an athletic contest as an individual or a member of another team in the same sport during the same season, unless your school principal waives this rule by sending an appropriate letter to the PIAA Executive Director before you begin the outside participation.

If you participate as an individual or as a member of a team in a non- school athletic program while enrolled at a school which has a team in that sport, you will be eligible for the playoffs in that sport only if you are in uniform and available to participate as a member of your school team for at least 75 percent of its regular season contests.

ACADEMIC AND CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

1. You must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by your principal as a full-time curriculum.
2. You must be passing at least three full blocks as of each Friday during the grading period. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility from the following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which you meet this requirement.
3. You must have passed at least three full blocks during the previous grading period, except for the first grading period is based on your final grades for the preceding school year. If you fail to meet this requirement you will lose your eligibility for at least 10 to 15 school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day report cards are issued. If your school has four grading periods, you will be ineligible for at least 15 school days; if your school has six grading periods; you will ineligible for at least 10 school days.

ALL-STAR CONTESTS AND NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL/ INTERSCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

You will lose your eligibility in a sport for one year if you participate in an all-star contest in that sport or if you participate in a contest to qualify for and/or determine a single national high school/interscholastic individual champion team in that sport.

OUT-OF-SEASON PARTICIPATION

Almost all PIAA sports have a defined season. If your team conducts practice and/or plays a contest outside that PIAA defined season, your school will be penalized.

PRACTICE - ATHLETES OBLIGATIONS PRIOR TO PRACTICING

Before an athlete may practice with the team, the following items must be turned in to the Athletic Office: Physical card signed by a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine, a physician assistant certified, a certified registered nurse practitioner, or a school

nurse practitioner, parent permission card signed four times by a parent or guardian, insurance waiver form or purchase school insurance, emergency form, rules form and HIPPA form. All of these forms are available at sign-ups for sports or at the Athletic Office.

Once these items are completed and handed in, a card will be given to the athlete to be presented to the coach. Only after the card is presented to the coach may an athlete practice.

SENECA HIGH SCHOOL RULES ATHLETIC / EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The term extra-curricular activities shall be interpreted to include but not be limited to the following activities:

1. Interscholastic athletics, intramural athletics, cheerleading and lifetime sports activities.
2. Drama and music related activities.

Participation in extra-curricular activities is believed to be an important part of a pupil's education. Thus, the Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education encourages all students to participate. However, such encouragement is predicated on the belief that students should exhibit the appropriate behaviors and attitudes while participating. Participation in any extra-curricular activity is a privilege. Failure to abide by the rules and regulations stipulated by the supervisor or coach of the activity shall result in appropriate disciplinary measures, including suspension or dismissal from the official events of the sport or activity and from practices

HEARINGS

Any student suspended or dismissed has the right to appeal in a hearing procedure as outlined below:

1. The principal will inform the student of his/her right to appeal the suspension through an informal hearing.
2. The student may request an informal hearing before the appropriate building principal. Such hearing shall be held within three school days of the date of the notification of suspension or from the request for a hearing, and the due process procedures of the Students Rights and Responsibilities (Section 12. 8 of PA Code).

All school rules prescribed in the Wattsburg Area School District Discipline Code (see: Discipline) shall apply to the participation of students in extra-curricular activities. All students who are members of teams or are taking part in a school activity representing the Wattsburg Area School District shall agree to and abide by the following rules:

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

1. When a student is absent from school he/she may not participate in any extra-curricular activity (including practices) on that day unless approval is given by the administration at the request of the coach or advisor before 2:45 p. m.

2. If a student is tardy to school on a given day, he or she may be denied participation in extra-curricular activities for that day by the coach and/or school administration. The basis for such decisions will be made on the legitimacy of the tardiness.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE/UNPRESCRIBED DRUGS

1. The possession or use of alcoholic beverages and/or un-prescribed drugs is absolutely forbidden to all students. Any student guilty of breaking this rule shall be immediately suspended from participating in athletics and/or extra-curricular activities for a period of 30 calendar days upon administrative notification. This rule will also be applied to the student athlete's behavior that is off school grounds and can be enforced 365 days per year.
2. Second offenders shall be suspended from all athletic and extracurricular participation for the remainder of the school year.

TOBACCO

1. The possession or use of tobacco is absolutely forbidden to all students. Any student found guilty of breaking this rule shall be immediately suspended from participating in athletics and/or extracurricular activities for a period of 30 calendar days upon administrative notification.
2. Second offenders will be suspended from all athletic and extra-curricular participation until the end of that sport or activity.

BEHAVIOR

1. Athletic team members and extra-curricular activity participants are representatives of our school and, therefore, shall set a superior standard of behavior at all times.
2. Student athletes and extra-curricular activity participants may be suspended from the team (or activity) for Level III or Level IV violations of the student discipline code in or out of school, for a period of 30 calendar days upon administrative notification.
3. Student athletes are required to strive for academic excellence. The P. I. A. A. regulations regarding scholastic eligibility shall govern Seneca eligibility.

TEAM RULES

1. Each coach and advisor shall be required to establish team (or activity) rules that regulate the behavior of team members (or activity participants). Rules for the team or activity must be in writing and given to each student participant when he/she becomes a member of the team or activity. Both the participant and parent must sign a statement indicating that they have read and understood the team rules and this policy before the student can participate in any event.
2. The head coach or advisor shall be in full charge of all team activities. Each student athlete or activity member shall strive to be loyal to the coach or advisor and abide by the team rules.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

1. All uniforms and equipment issued to student athletes, musicians, or other extra-curricular activity participants, are the property of the Wattsburg Area School District. Students are to return all such items at the end of the season. Any student still having equipment and uniforms will not be allowed to start a new sport until the matter has been cleared to the satisfaction of the school staff. Any item checked backed in will be checked for normal wear and tear. If there is excess wear and tear, or the item is missing, the issuing coach will complete a Student Obligation Debt Sheet and turn it into the office. The coach will inform the student of the debt owed.
2. Students will be cleared of the debt only by paying for it at the main office, or turning in items owed to the coach reporting the debt. The coach will then stop at the office and sign the original sheet indicating that the debt was cleared and the date it was cleared.

INSURANCE

Students participating in all interscholastic athletics are required to either purchase the school insurance or provide the school with a completed waiver form. This also includes cheerleaders. School insurance does not cover Varsity and Jr. Varsity football. Therefore, if you do not have coverage of your own, you must obtain this coverage from an independent insurance agent.

TRANSPORTATION TO AWAY GAMES

In most cases, students participating in school sponsored activities will be provided transportation to these events by the district. **Students are to ride to and from all athletic events on the team bus.** Exceptions may be made with prior administrative approval that is verified by written parental permission. **Students are only permitted to ride home with their parents.** Students are not permitted to ride with another student or their parents. It should be an exception and not a matter of practice. Forms must be completed and given to the coach if a student is riding home with a parent.

CALLING FOR RIDES

Having all students call for a ride at the conclusion of an activity is time consuming and impractical. Therefore, if your parents are to pick you up after you return from an activity, ask them to be waiting for you at a specific time at the school. This can be estimated fairly accurately. Ask your advisor/coach ahead of time for an approximate return time.

ELIGIBILITY

Athletes must be passing three out of the four block scheduled classes in which they are enrolled in order to be eligible to play a sport. Grades are checked each Thursday and if a student does not meet the requirements, they are ineligible starting from Sunday through and including the following Saturday.

ATHLETIC OVERNIGHT TRIPS

1. School District rules and policies apply to all school sponsored trips.
2. Coaches will present to the athlete their rules for the duration of a trip.
3. Athletes are expected to abide by all rules and if a violation occurs, the parents may be called to come and take the student home if necessary.

HAZING

Hazing is defined as any action or situation which demeans the worth or value of a student or recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or which willfully destroys or removes property for the purpose of initiation or admission into any organization including a team sport. Participation in such activities is strictly prohibited and will result in serious disciplinary consequences, which include the possible removal from the team. All complaints of hazing should be made immediately to the building administration. Any questions should be forwarded to the athletic director.

SCHOOL OBLIGATIONS

Students who have a debt to the school will not be permitted to participate in any school extracurricular activities. These privileges will be immediately reinstated upon payment or a payment plan is set up with a Secretary in the High School Office.

"THE PARENTING OF SPORTS"

1. Make sure your children understand that win or lose, you love them.
2. Be realistic about your child's physical ability.
3. Help your child set realistic goals.
4. Don't relive your own athletic past through your child.
5. Control your emotions at games and events.
6. Be a "cheerleader" for your child AND other children on the team.
7. Respect the COACHES; communicate with them in a positive way.
8. Be a positive role model for your child, other children, and the community.

PIAA

Seneca High School and the Wattsburg Middle School are members of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and subscribe to the philosophy and intent of its by-laws. The PIAA by-laws that pertain to age, awards, attendance, health, transfers and residence, participation, representation, curriculum, and seasonal rules will be followed. Each coach is responsible to know the rules, inform team members and parents, and to enforce them.